

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 272

By Litz

A RESOLUTION to recognize the Reverend Garland Ewing James on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those ministers who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm in their service to God and their congregations; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Garland Ewing James is one such estimable minister who has served with distinction for 10 years as the Pastor of Panther Springs United Methodist Church in Morristown; and

WHEREAS, a native of Jonesville, Virginia, Reverend James is the son of Paul and Glinita James; the fourth of eight children, he developed a love of the Lord and his Christian family at an early age; and

WHEREAS, a 1957 graduate of Jonesville High School, Mr. James attended both Lees-McRae College and Milligan College on athletic scholarships; after his graduation, he served as a teacher and coach at St. Charles High School in St. Charles, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, as a young man, he answered the call of duty to his country as one of the many gallant citizen-soldiers who protected and ensured the freedom of this nation and our world; and

WHEREAS, after reporting for basic training in June of 1962, Mr. James was stationed at Vint Hill Farm Station in Maryland; during his tenure in the United States Army, he served as a recreational specialist and coached the Vint Hill basketball team; and

WHEREAS, after receiving his discharge from the U.S. Army in 1964, he enrolled at East Tennessee State University in pursuit of his Master's Degree in Education; he met Doris Cates on his first day of classes there; Garland and Doris were married soon after he had

obtained his Master's Degree and begun teaching and coaching football in Rye Cove, Virginia;
and

WHEREAS, after teaching in Rye Cove, Reverend and Mrs. James moved to Johnson City, Tennessee, where Reverend James would serve as a parole officer for three years; pursuing his desire to work in coaching and education, he began working for the Washington County School System, for which he would eventually work as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, and principal; he retired from the Washington County School System in 1992; and

WHEREAS, during his teaching career, Mr. James had become a United Methodist minister and industriously completed his Divinity Degree at Duke Divinity School; he became a full-time pastor at Boone's Creek United Methodist Church in Gray, Tennessee, and, in 1996, he was transferred to Bookwalter United Methodist Church in Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, since Reverend James was appointed to Panther Springs in 1997, the church has experienced significant growth and expansion of its programs; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure, he distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and an exceptional asset to his community; he has served as a member of the Boards of Directors for M.A.T.S., the Daily Bread Community Kitchen, the Lions Club, and numerous other benevolent organizations; and

WHEREAS, renowned as a religious leader of the greatest ability, he has served as the Volunteer Chaplain at Morristown Hamblen Hospital and the Morristown Police/Fire Department;
and

WHEREAS, Reverend James is strongly committed to the highest ideals of family values; he is most grateful for the tremendous love and companionship that he shares with his beloved wife, Doris; and

WHEREAS, Reverend James's outstanding career as a dynamic and compassionate pastor and an active civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on God's grace, his dedication to the time-honored values of hard work and common sense, and his uncommon ability to relate to people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Garland Ewing James will be taking a much-deserved retirement on June 17, 2007; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Reverend James has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and his flock; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Reverend Garland Ewing James our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors, thanking him for his unwavering dedication to God, the members of Panther Springs United Methodist Church, and his community.